which amounts of heavy financial burden on the company; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Like all other Public Sector Units M/s. Traco Cable Company Ltd. is also required to furnish bank guarantee in accordance with the guidelines of Bureau of Public Enterprises (No. BPE/1(4)/ADV(F)/ 69 dated 3.11.72) which read as "Since the transactions between public sector enterprises and the Govt. Dept. are of commercial nature, it would not be appropriate to exempt the public undertakings from the bank guarantees in lieu of the security deposit for fullfilment of the contract. Such guarantees show the earnestness of the public sector enterprises for the fullfilment of the contract and in such cases the normal commercial principles shall be followed."

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Allotment of Berths out of H.O.R. Quota

4149. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the norms and guidelines laid down by the Railway Board for allotment of berths out of H.O.R. quota;

(b) whether such norms and guidelines are being followed by the Commercial Officers in Allahabad Division of the Northern Railway;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received the complaints regarding berths earmarked for H.O.R. quota are being sold through agents at Allahabad by a Commercial Officer; and

(e) if so the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). A limited number of berths/seats have been earmarked as emergency quota to meet the urgent travel requirements of High official requisition holders, Minister, MPs/MLAs, VIPs and other emergent demands.

Requests received from various quarters for release of berths/seats out of emergency quota are given due priority taking into account factors like status of the passengers travelling, nature of urgency like Government duty, bereavement, sickness etc. These guidelines are being strictly followed by the Commercial Officers of the Northern Railway.

(d) One such complaint was received.

(e) The complaint was of general nature without quoting any specific instance. However, constant watch is kept to prevent any misuse of the reservation quota.

Serious Track Condition

4150. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact tha track condition between Santragachi and Bargachia is very serious;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the track to increase the speed of the trains;

(c) whether any steps are being taken to provide minimum passengers amenities in all the stations of Bargachia section; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). All Railway stations are provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic.

Appointments on Compassionate Grounds

4151. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of appointments on compassionate ground are lying pending since 1990 with South Central Railway;

(b) if so, the details of such cases in general and SCs and STs in particular;

(c) the reasons for delay in providing employment; and

(d) the time proposed to be taken for clearing all the cases of appointments on compassionate ground?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Optical Fibre Cable in Delhi

4152. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to install optical fibre cables for increasing the Telephone facilities in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.